Loyola
OF MONTREAL

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SIR GEORGE, LOYOLA RATED STRONG CONTENDERS AS
CENTENNIAL HOCKEY DRAW ANNOUNCED

"I'll say this", said Dave Draper the other day, "I think any one of four teams could take it all but there's a good chance the winner of our game will win the Cup."

Draper, coach of Loyola's Warriors was looking over the draw in the Fourth Annual Loyola of Montreal Centennial Invitational Hockey Tournament which pits his Warriors against Sir George Williams Georgians in a first round game at 9:30 p.m. The game matches Harvard against McGill at 7:00 p.m. on Friday January 2 at the Pointe Claire Arena. Defending champions Toronto has drawn a bye in the draw announced yesterday. On Saturday January 3 play resumes at 7:00 p.m. with the loser of the McGill, Harvard game meeting the loser of the Sir George Loyola contest and the winner of the Harvard McGill game taking on a rested Toronto club at 9:30. For the Championship game the site switches to the Montreal Forum for a 1:00 p.m. game with with the winner of the Toronto - McGill or Harvard game playing the winner of the Sir George Loyola contest.

Draper, a reticent man at the best of times was not going to go out on a limb. He wouldn't predict a win over Arsenault's Georgians, always tough in the clutch, but figures both his team and Sir George have the capability to win it all. Which is a bit of a statement considering the opposition.

First there's the Toronto Blues, or if you like, the Mighty Blues, defending Tournament and National Champions, champions of the OQAA these last five seasons.

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On paper they've got to be favored, but Toronto has been hurting of late and Coach Tom Watt isn't poormouthing when he says, "We've got a lot of injuries."

Indeed they do. Blues have been hurting at the key centre position, playing these last four weeks without Brian St. John, their captain and leaderman. St. John, who broke his ankle last season has suffered a recurrent injury. Then there's Red Wright a giant centerman and super playmaker who's missed three weeks.

So Watt has had to plug the holes and even if both are back neither will be 100%.

Then there's Harvard, the number two team in the Eastern United States. But the Crimson, an All-American outfit will be playing pro rules for the first time and it's a considerable adjustment.

"I understand they've got an excellent team", said Draper.

Then there's the question of mental readiness. Loyola has never won its own tournament and Draper would like this to be the year. In addition Loyola is always up for Toronto or any American club, and Sir George, well the Georgians are the Georgians, they always come to play the big game.

Thus Draper's outlook, a mild prediction that the winner of Loyola-Sir George beating the winner of Toronto-Harvard. This is of course barring a major upset in the first game of the Tournament Friday night at 7:00 p.m. at the Pointe Claire Arena. Brian Gilmour's McGill Redmen meet Harvard prior to Loyola-Sir George. The early line favors Harvard, and Gilmour agrees his club is a legitimate underdog but adds, "You never know, especially in tournament play in the college ranks".